

REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE
YEAR 1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(a) A. B. Follows, M.D., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health. Part time.

Assistant M.O.H.)	
Assistant School M.O.)	Under the directions of,
Tuberculosis Officer.)	and paid by, the County
Inspector of Midwives.)	Council.
Health Visitors and Nurses.)	

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Dr. E. Protheroe Smith, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Redditch. Part time.

Dr. E. P. Dawes, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (Edin.),) Feckenham. " "

L.R.S.P.S., (Glas.))

Dr. W. T. Mitchell, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas. 1922)) Beoley " "

) Ipsley

) Upper Ipsley

PUBLIC VACCINATORS.

Dr. E. Protheroe Smith, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Redditch.

Dr. E. P. Dawes, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (Edin.)) Feckenham.

L.R.S.P.S., (Glas.))

Dr. W. T. Mitchell, M.B., Ch.B., (Glas. 1922)) Beoley

) Ipsley

) Upper Ipsley.

(b) G. H. Champion, Cert. "S.I.B."
Senior Sanitary Inspector.
Meat and Food Inspector.
Inspector under the Shops Acts.

T. Hope, Cert. "S.I.B."
Additional Sanitary Inspector.
(On active service)

Miss A. Lilley - Clerk.

Mrs. W. Shaw - Clerk. (temporary)

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and
Housing Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my sixth Annual Report
which is for the year 1939 on the health of the Redditch
Urban District.

In view of the increasing pressure of work in the
Public Health Departments of Local Authorities and the need
for strict economy in the use of paper, the Minister
considers that interim reports only should be made for the
year 1939. This report, therefore, will be confined to
essential and urgent matters only.

There were a few staff changes during the year -
Mr. W. Jameson, after 40 years service with the Council
as Sanitary Inspector, retired in June and was succeeded by
Mr. G. H. Champion. Mr. T. Hope, after obtaining his
Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, was promoted to Assistant
Sanitary Inspector. Soon after the onset of war, Mr. Hope
joined the R.A.M.C.

My thanks are due to the Officials and Staff for their
continued co-operation.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	12,059 acres.
Population, Census 1931.. ..	19,281)
Registrar-General's estimate of) These figures
Resident Population, 1939. ..(a)	22,760) apply to areas
..(b)	23,070) of differing
	size.
(a) for calculation of Birth rates.	
(b) for calculation of Death rates	
or the incidence of notifiable	
diseases.	
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1938.	7,116
1939.	7,236
Rateable Value (1st October 1939)	£125,294
Sum represented by Penny Rate ..	£487

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

800 Children were evacuated to this district from Birmingham under the Government Evacuation Scheme during September. The management of these cases was the responsibility of this department and the problems arising were many. No nursing assistance was provided by the Evacuating Authority and the work of school inspection fell rather heavily on some of the district nursing Associations. Several cases of skin disease were sent home and owing to the unexpected development of the war, many mothers and children returned on their own account.

I am grateful to the Manager of the Labour Exchange, (Mr. F. J. Taylor) for the following figures:-

UNEMPLOYMENT

Insured Population, 1939

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
General Scheme	5795	4385	747	784
			<u>Total 11,711</u>	
Agricultural Scheme	509	27	30	4
			<u>Total 570</u>	

Numbers Unemployed.

January, 1939:

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Wholly unemployed:	321	264	13	10
Temporarily stopped:	132	232	2	2
			<u>Total: 976</u>	

December, 1939:

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Wholly unemployed:	117	36	1	7
Temporarily stopped:	22	36	-	-
			<u>Total: 219</u>	

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	M	F	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population 1939	1938	Eng. & Wales 1939
Legit.	352	203	149			
Illegit.	15	7	8	16.12	14.54	15.0

STILL BIRTHS

	Total	M	F	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births 1939	1938
Legit.	21	14	7		
Illegit.	-	-	-	54.12	38.12

DEATHS

	Total	M	F	Death Rate per 1,000 Population 1939	1938	Eng. & Wales 1939
	231	146	135	12.18	11.84	12.1

COMPARABILITY FACTOR .99 CORRECTED DEATH RATE 12.06

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	Deaths 1939	Rate per 1,000 Total Births 1939	1938	Eng. & Wales 1939
No.29 Puerperal Sepsis	1	2.57	-	0.74
No.30 Other Puerperal Causes	-	-	2.95	2.03
Total	1	2.57	2.95	2.82

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Total	M	F	Infant Mort. Rate per 1,000 live births. 1939	1938	Eng. & Wales 1939
	27	17	10	73.56	45.73	50.0
Legit. Infants per 1,000 legit. live births				17	10	73.56
Illegit. Infants per 1,000 illegit. live births				-	-	-

DEATHS from:-

	Total Mortality Rate per 1,000 population 1939	1938	Eng. & Wales 1939
Measles	Nil	Nil	0.01
Whooping Cough	2	0.08	0.03
Enteric Fever	Nil	Nil	0.04
Small Pox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	1	0.04	1.89
Diphtheria	2	0.09	1.14
Appendicitis	2	0.08	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	0.08	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Nil	Nil	-
Influenza	9	0.39	0.21
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	9	0.39	-
Other Tuberculosis	3	0.13	-
Cancer	36	1.56	-
Heart Disease	91	3.94	-
Pneumonia (all forms)	9	0.39	-
Bronchitis	3	0.13	-
Violence & Suicide	13	0.56	-
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	13	0.78	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil	Nil	4.6

per 1,000 live births

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are the same as those given in my previous report.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The ambulance for non-infectious, accident and maternity cases was taken over in September by the Urban District Council and the vehicle is kept at the Fire Station.

The service is, in my opinion, inadequate, as there is no attendant in the vehicle. A trained ambulance attendant is essential to deal with any contingencies which may arise during conveyance.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME

General and Midwifery.

Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

The Redditch District Nursing Association, Nurses' Home, Worcester Road, Redditch. In October the number of nurses on the staff was increased to four.

There are no changes to report in the other nursing associations in the district.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Clinic	Situated	Accommodation	By whom provided	Times of holding
Redditch Child Welfare Centre	Old Vicarage B'grove Road.	4 Rooms	County Council & voluntarily	Monday 2 p.m. Thursday 2 p.m.
<u>School Clinic</u>				Tuesday 10 a.m.
<u>Dental Clinic</u>	do.	3 Rooms	County Council	Wed. and Fri. 10 a.m.
<u>Orthopaedic Clinic</u>				Monday 10 a.m.
Diphtheria Prevention Clinic	do.	2 Rooms	R.U.D.C. & County Council	2nd and 4th Tuesdays 10 a.m.
Ante. Natal Clinic	do.	2 Rooms	County Council	2nd and 4th Thursdays 10 a.m.
Astwood Bank Child Welfare Centre	Church Hall Astwood Bank.	One large room	County Council & voluntarily	2nd and 4th Mondays 2 p.m.
Tuberculosis	The Dispensary Elm Road.	Waiting Room and Consulting Room	County Council	Friday 2 p.m.

(c) HOSPITALS

Hospital	Name	Situated	By whom provided
Tuberculosis	W.C.C. and Bromsgrove Droitwich and Redditch Joint Hospital.	Knightwick Bromsgrove and Hayley Green.	Under joint control
Infectious Diseases	Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Redditch Joint Hospital.	Bromsgrove	ditto.
Smallpox	W.C.C.	Worcester	W.C.C.
Maternity	Mary Stevens Lucy Baldwin	Stourbridge Stourport	W.C.C. W.C.C.
Children	Children's Hospital	Birmingham	By arrangement with County Council
Other General	Smallwood Hospital, 35 beds & 2 cots	Redditch	Voluntarily, not Rate-aided
Tonsils and Adenoids	Smallwood Hospital	Redditch	By arrangement with County Council
Venereal Disease	General Hospital Royal Infirmary	Birmingham Worcester	By arrangement with County Council
Eucorperal Pyrexia	General Hospital Royal Infirmary	Birmingham Worcester	By arrangement with County Council
Ear, Nose and Throat	Birmingham	Birmingham	By arrangement with County Council
Convalescent Home	"Holmwood" 20 beds (used chiefly for cases from outside the area)	Redditch	Royal Antedulivian Order of Buffaloes

3,908 patients received treatment at the Smallwood Hospital during the year and 734 at Birmingham and other Hospitals and Convalescent Homes. The number of cases dealt with at the Smallwood Hospital continues to increase. No structural alterations were made to the hospital buildings during the year and the bed accommodation (35 beds) remains the same.

Structural alterations are still in progress at the Joint Isolation Hospital which serves five county districts.

An acute shortage of institutional accommodation for infectious diseases has again been felt during 1939 and additional expense has been incurred by the Redditch Urban District owing to the necessity of transferring cases to other hospitals.

2. MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES

The Council is not a Local Supervising Authority but there were two Registered Nursing Homes in the area during 1939.

22nd January, 1940.

The extension of the mains supply from Headless Cross to Ham Green and Elcccks Brook was completed, but the scheme for the continuation of the main from Feckenham to Berrow Hill, although approved by the Ministry, was, with their permission, suspended for the time being, on account of the labour shortage and the difficulty of obtaining materials as a result of the National situation.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

It is unfortunate that several agencies have hindered the carrying out of the sewerage scheme which was started at the end of 1938. A rapidly increasing population and the recent erection of several hundred new houses makes the sewerage problem a health matter of the first magnitude. The overloading of the old sewerage works is serious and the need for speed in the completion of the new works cannot be over-emphasised.

Work is proceeding slowly on the new sewage disposal works off Studley Road and several lengths of main sewers, totalling 3.5 miles, have been laid.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS

The pollution of the River Arrow continues to be a menace to the public health. Factory development has aggravated the position. Complaints are frequently received concerning the state of the river below the sewage works.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Number of pail closets converted into water closets	29
Number of trough closets converted into water closets	4
Analysis of sanitary accommodation at the end of 1939:-	
Water Closets	5288
Automatically flushed W.C.'s.	357
Waste water closets	16
Slop closets	97
Pail closets	480
Earth closets	17

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

There have been no important extensions or improvements in the arrangements for Public Cleansing during the year.

One hundred and eighty two new galvanised dustbins were provided during the year.

House refuse is collected weekly and disposed of by "controlled" tipping.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Houses inspected	441
Inspections under Housing Regulations	85
Re-inspections	1215
Inspections re drainage and conversions	163
Visits to verminous premises	39
" re infectious diseases	165
Factories and bakehouses inspected	31
Dairies and Cowsheds	149
Slaughterhouses, shops and stalls	1127
Shops inspected (Shops Act 1912-38)	34
Miscellaneous inspections	214
Inspections re moveable dwellings	45
Statutory Notices served	48
" " complied with	48
Intimation notices served	10
" " complied with	7

(iv) IMPROVEMENTS

Houses generally repaired	156
Houses reconstructed	14
Houses provided with proper drainage	42
Pail closets converted to water closets	29
Trough closets " " " "	4
Ashpits abolished	15
Galvanised ashbins provided	182
New sculleries or wash-houses provided	10
Water laid on to sculleries or wash-houses	17
New sinks provided	
Miscellaneous improvements	94

(v) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

One council house and eight other houses were found to be infested with bed bugs. Liquid insecticide is used for disinfection and "Zaldecide" is found to be the most effective. The premises are examined 10 - 14 days after treatment.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

It was unfortunate that the second Slum Clearance Scheme of the Council could not have been carried through before the National situation brought the scheme to an abrupt ending. A more vigorous housing policy would have provided the new houses which are now so badly needed and at the same time would have cleared away much old property which now disgraces our town.

The advent of new factories and the increasing demands of labour have found us without housing accommodation for the workers. A test survey of lodging accommodation was carried out early in 1940 but this revealed that insufficient voluntary lodging accommodation was available to meet the anticipated expansion of the population. If, and when, new houses are built, their reservation for munition workers will create strong criticism from townspeople who have patiently awaited the keeping of the Council's promise to provide them with houses. The war commenced just when a programme of expansion was about to be undertaken by the Council. A new Civic Centre had been approved and important road widening schemes were only half completed.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		441
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		568
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932		84
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		84
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		85
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		180

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	149
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

- (a) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act,1936.
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:-
- (a) By Owners Nil
- (b) By local authority in default of Owners Nil
- (b) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 48
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:-
- (a) By Owners 48
- (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil
- (c) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 and 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT,1936
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.. .. . Nil
- (d) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 47
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein .. 47
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .. 342
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.. .. . 16
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases Nil
- (d) Particulars of ~~persons concerned~~ ^{any cases} in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

FACTORIES

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES, with mechanical power	14	Nil	Nil
FACTORIES, without mechanical power	24	Nil	Nil
x OTHER PREMISES, under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
x Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
TOTAL:	38	Nil	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	5	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences: (S.7) insufficient	3	2	-	Nil
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	Nil
not separate for sexes	-	-	-	Nil
Other offences	-	-	-	Nil
TOTAL:	11	10	Nil	Nil

SECTION E
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

The Register contains 107 dairy farms and 105 retailers of milk. The progress made during the year of bringing premises up to the standard required was fully maintained. Improvements were effected at the undermentioned farms:-

Astwood Farm	Cowshed reconstructed
Springhill Farm	New cowshed and dairy provided
Ham Green Farm	New milking parlour and dairy provided.
Middle Bean Hall Farm	Cowshed reconstructed
Old Yarr Mill Farm	" "
Fields Farm	" "
Greenlands Farm	" "

Licences granted during the year under the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936, are as follows:-

Pasteurised (to bottle and sell)	1
Tuberculin Tested (Dealers)	2
Accredited (Dealers)	3
Pasteurised (Dealers)	6

During the year 149 inspections were made.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are 11 slaughterhouses in use in the district, (1 registered and 10 licensed). The condition of the majority of these premises is far below standard. Some are wooden structures in a dilapidated condition, insufficiently lighted and improperly drained. Only four of these slaughterhouses are connected to the sewer, the remainder have primitive drainage, making the premises unsuitable for the preparation of food. At the end of the year a special report was prepared on the premises in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. This report was not considered by the Health Committee until early 1940.

During the year, 1127 visits were made to slaughterhouses, shops and stalls.

The estimated weight of foods surrendered and destroyed as unfit for human consumption is 19 cwts. consisting of:-

1 beef carcass and offals
2 hind quarters of beef
2 pigs, carcass and offals
3 sheep " " "
1 lamb " " "
3 calves " " "
3 sides and 46 lbs. of bacon
42 lbs. of mutton
250 lbs. of sausages
4 sheep's livers
Consignment of oats.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIONS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1. SCARLET FEVER.

67 cases (38 males and 29 females) were notified compared with 17 in the previous year. 56 were removed to hospital and 11 were isolated at home. The disease was, on the whole, mild in type and 2 "return" cases were reported.

2. DIPHTHERIA.

46 cases (23 males and 23 females) were notified compared with 29 in the previous year. There were 3 deaths (one an evacuee) none of which had been immunised. All the cases were removed to hospital.

3. TYPHOID.

One case of typhoid occurred in a schoolboy on July 22nd. He was one of a party who visited a seaside resort for the day. The source of the disease was traced to ice cream. No further cases resulted.

4. MEASLES and WHOOPING COUGH

These were made compulsorily notifiable at the end of October, principally for the purpose of dealing with evacuees. The objection of the notification of these diseases is to reduce to a minimum exclusions from school. It is not fully realised how serious are the complications of Measles and Whooping Cough in children under 5 years. The procedure is only a temporary one as in the last war and is likely to be revoked when the evacuation problem ceases to exist. There were 48 Measles and 1 Whooping Cough

IMMUNISATION

298 children were immunised in 1939, (of these 113 were under school age) compared with 175 in 1938. The total of immunised children in Redditch now totals 1992 (i.e. Dec. 31st 1939). The following tables show the numbers treated at the various schools in 1939:-

School	M	F	Total
Bridge Street Girls' School	-	38	38
Bridge Street Boys' School	18	-	18
Bridge Street Infants' School	6	5	11
St. Stephen's Girls' School	-	22	22
St. Stephen's Boys' School	21	-	21
St. Stephen's Infants' School	9	6	15
St. George's Mixed School	7	7	14
Mt. Carmel R. C. School	1	2	3
Ipsley Street Infants' School	3	4	7
County High School, Girls	-	-	-
County High School, Boys	1	-	1
St. Luke's School	-	4	4
Crabbs Cross School	2	1	3
Astwood Bank School	-	-	-
Feckenham	13	11	24
Under School Age	56	57	113
Out-lying	2	2	4
TOTALS	139	159	298

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING
1939.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	67	56	1
Diphtheria	46	46	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	11	0	0
Pneumonia	15	0	9
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	0	2
Erysipelas	7	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0	0
Measles	48	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	0	0

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	2	-	-	1	2	-	-
25	-	-	-	1	2	3	1	-
35	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	-
45	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	7	4	2	1	6	5	3	-

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. B. FOLLOWS,

Medical Officer of Health.

